



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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**INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
FEBRUARY 2013 GENERAL BAR EXAMINATION AND ATTORNEYS' EXAMINATION**

GRADE INFORMATION

The General Bar Examination consists of two sections: the written section including six essays and two Performance Tests (PT's), and the 200-item Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). If you took the General Bar Examination, your result letter includes your raw MBE subtest scores, your total raw (number of items correct) and scaled MBE scores, your raw scores on the eight parts of the written test, your total raw and scaled written scores, and your total scaled score.

The Attorneys' Examination consists of the six essays and two PT's from the General Bar Examination. If you took the Attorneys' Examination, your result letter includes your raw scores on the eight parts of the written test, your total raw and scaled written scores, and your total scaled score.

To pass the examination an applicant must have a total scaled score of at least 1440 points out of a possible 2000 points.

Scaling Information

The Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) utilizes a grading procedure designed to ensure the difficulty of passing the examination remains unchanged from one administration of the examination to another. The statistical technique, called scaling, converts scores on the written portion (essay questions and PT's) to the same scale of measurement as the MBE. MBE raw scores are converted to scale scores to adjust the results for possible differences in average question difficulty across different administrations of the examination. As a result of this step, a given MBE scale score indicates the same level of proficiency regardless of the administration of the examination on which it was earned. Converting the total written raw scores to the same scale of measurement as the MBE adjusts for possible differences in average question difficulty and Grader performance across different administrations of the examination.

The item-response theory (IRT) equating method is the statistical methodology used to equate new forms of the MBE to previous forms of this examination. IRT methods do not generate or use linear equations for equating. Instead, a table for converting raw scores to scaled scores is provided to transform raw scores (the number of questions answered correctly) to scaled scores. Additional information regarding the equating of the MBE and the IRT method can be found on the National Conference of Bar Examiners' (NCBE) website at www.ncbex.org.

On the written section of the examination, applicants are graded initially on a basis of 1000 possible points. An applicant can earn up to 100 raw points on each of the six essay questions and up to 200 raw points on each PT. The scores obtained on the written section of the examination are then translated to the 2000-point MBE scale. An applicant's total score is the scale MBE score (on the 2000-point scale) multiplied by .35 plus the converted score on the written section multiplied by .65. Scaling ensures the two portions of the examination carry the relative weights assigned to them: written (65%) and MBE (35%).

Attorney applicants who took the Attorneys' Examination also have their scores on the written section placed on the same scale of measurement as general applicants, but as they are exempt from the MBE, their pass/fail status is based solely on the written section.

FEBRUARY 2013 ESSAY AND PERFORMANCE TEST COVERAGE

Question 1: Criminal Law and Procedure

Question 2: Professional Responsibility

Question 3: Remedies

Question 4: Torts

Question 5: Civil Procedure

Question 6: Business Associations

PT - A Task: Objective Opinion Letter to Client

PT - B Task: Persuasive Letter to Opposing Counsel

Phased Grading

All written answers submitted by applicants are read at least once before pass/fail decisions are made, including the answers of applicants who do not complete the examination in its entirety. Based on the results of studies relative to reliability, scores have been established for passing and failing after one reading of the examination. For those applicants whose scores after the first read (Phase I) are near the required passing score, all answer books are read a second time, and the scores of the first and second readings are averaged. The total averaged score after two readings is then used to make a second set of pass/fail decisions, providing there are no grading discrepancies of more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any question (Phase II). Any answers with grading discrepancies more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades are read a third time before making the third set of pass/fail decisions (Phase III).

To pass the examination in the first phase of grading, an applicant must have a total scaled score (after one reading) of at least 1440 points out of 2000 possible points. Those with total scaled scores after one reading below 1390 fail the examination. If the applicant's total scaled score is at least 1390 but less than 1440 after one reading, all of the applicant's answers are read a second time by a different set of graders. If the applicant's averaged total scaled score after two readings is 1440 or higher, the applicant passes the examination. Applicants with no grading discrepancies of more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any question with averaged total scaled scores of less than 1440, fail the examination. Applicants with grading discrepancies more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any answer, whose averaged total scaled score is less than 1440 will have those answers referred to the supervising member of the grading team for that particular question for resolution of the discrepancy. The supervising member will assign a resolution grade to the answer and the resolution grade will replace the averaged grade for that question. If the applicant's total scaled score after resolution grading is 1440 points or higher, that applicant passes the examination. If the applicant's total scaled score after resolution grading is less than 1440 points, the applicant fails the examination.

To confirm your scaled written score:

Double each raw PT grade and add the resulting value to the sum of your six raw essay grades. The total is your raw written score. Insert this value into the following formula:

Scaled written score = (Raw written score x 3.1089) – 471.2578

To confirm your MBE scaled score:

Use the table provided on Page 3 to find the MBE scaled score that corresponds to your MBE raw score. Because California reports MBE scaled scores on a 2000-point scale, multiply the MBE scaled score in this table by 10.

MBE CONVERSION TABLE

Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score
1	42.3	20	59.6	39	76.9	58	93.3	77	106.7	96	119.9	115	133.5	134	147.7	153	162.8	172	179.5
2	43.2	21	60.5	40	77.8	59	94.0	78	107.4	97	120.6	116	134.2	135	148.5	154	163.7	173	180.4
3	44.1	22	61.4	41	78.8	60	94.8	79	108.1	98	121.3	117	134.9	136	149.2	155	164.5	174	181.4
4	45.0	23	62.3	42	79.7	61	95.5	80	108.8	99	122.0	118	135.7	137	150.0	156	165.4	175	182.3
5	45.9	24	63.3	43	80.6	62	96.2	81	109.5	100	122.7	119	136.4	138	150.8	157	166.2	176	183.2
6	46.9	25	64.2	44	82.0	63	96.9	82	110.2	101	123.4	120	137.2	139	151.6	158	167.1	177	184.2
7	47.8	26	65.1	45	83.0	64	97.6	83	110.9	102	124.1	121	137.9	140	152.4	159	167.9	178	185.1
8	48.7	27	66.0	46	84.0	65	98.3	84	111.5	103	124.8	122	138.6	141	153.1	160	168.8	179	186.1
9	49.6	28	66.9	47	84.8	66	99.0	85	112.2	104	125.5	123	139.4	142	153.9	161	169.7	180	187.1
10	50.5	29	67.8	48	85.7	67	99.7	86	112.9	105	126.3	124	140.1	143	154.7	162	170.5	181	188.1
11	51.4	30	68.7	49	86.5	68	100.4	87	113.6	106	127.0	125	140.9	144	155.5	163	171.4	182	189.1
12	52.3	31	69.6	50	87.3	69	101.1	88	114.3	107	127.7	126	141.6	145	156.3	164	172.3	183	190.1
13	53.2	32	70.6	51	88.1	70	101.8	89	115.0	108	128.4	127	142.4	146	157.1	165	173.2	184	191.2
14	54.1	33	71.5	52	88.8	71	102.5	90	115.7	109	129.1	128	143.1	147	157.9	166	174.1	185	192.3
15	55.1	34	72.4	53	89.6	72	103.2	91	116.4	110	129.8	129	143.9	148	158.7	167	175.0	186	193.7
16	56.0	35	73.3	54	90.4	73	103.9	92	117.1	111	130.6	130	144.6	149	159.5	168	175.9	187	195.1
17	56.9	36	74.2	55	91.1	74	104.6	93	117.8	112	131.3	131	145.4	150	160.4	169	176.8	188	196.4
18	57.8	37	75.1	56	91.8	75	105.3	94	118.5	113	132.0	132	146.2	151	161.2	170	177.7	189	197.8
19	58.7	38	76.0	57	92.6	76	106.0	95	119.2	114	132.7	133	146.9	152	162.0	171	178.6	190	199.2

To confirm your total scaled score if you took the General Bar Examination:

Multiply your scaled MBE score by .35. Multiply your scaled written score by .65. The sum of these two products is your total scaled score on the examination.

If you took the Attorneys' Examination, your total scaled score is equal to your scaled written score.

RECONSIDERATION

The Committee believes that its grading and administrative systems afford each applicant a full and fair opportunity to take the examination, and a fair and careful consideration of all his or her examination answers on the bar examination and that no useful purpose would be served by further consideration by the Committee. For this reason, the Committee will consider requests for reconsideration only when an applicant establishes that one of the following resulted in failure or prevented the examination from being properly graded:

1. An arithmetical error in the calculation of the total written score from the final grades assigned to the written questions or in the calculation of the total MBE score; or
2. A clerical error.

The Committee will **not** extend reconsideration based on challenges to its grading system or the judgments of its professional graders. Responses to requests for reconsideration submitted by or on behalf of an unsuccessful applicant will only be provided to written requests that meet the criteria noted above.

EXAMINATION ANSWERS

Applicants who are unsuccessful on the California Bar Examination will have their essay and Performance Test answers mailed to the address on file with the Office of Admissions approximately four weeks following the release of results. Copies of examination answer materials are not available.

The MBE portion of the California Bar Examination is a secure examination owned by the NCBE. The NCBE does not permit the review of MBE questions, answers or the answer sheets completed by applicants.

PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS — Termination of Certification

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 1 of the *Rules of the State Bar of California* regarding the Practical Training of Law Students program, certification as a law student is terminated when an applicant is unsuccessful on or fails to take the first California Bar Examination for which he/she is eligible.

TRANSFER OF MBE SCORES TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The NCBE will transfer your MBE score to admitting authorities in other jurisdictions upon request and payment of a fee. A form for facilitating the transfer can be accessed online through the NCBE's website at www.ncbex.org. In accordance with the *Admissions Rules*, passing applicants do not have access to their scores from the examination and they will be advised by the NCBE, upon request, only whether their MBE score meets another jurisdiction's minimum requirement.

BAR EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS

"Selected Answers," which are examination answers written by actual successful applicants that received high grades during the course of grading, are produced for each administration of the examination. Essay questions, Performance Tests and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the California Bar Examination are available free of charge on the Admissions' portion of the State Bar of California's website at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov>. Selected Answers from the February 2013 administration are expected to be available online by June 10, 2013. A limited supply of booklets with the Selected Answers from the February 2012, July 2012, and the February 2013 administrations of the examination are available upon written request (a form for doing so is on the website) and payment of the required fee of \$25.00.

If materials will be sent to a jurisdiction outside of the United States, an additional \$5.00 for postage must be submitted. All sales are final.

MBE study aids called the Multistate Bar Examination - Annotated Preview (MBE-AP) are available online through the NCBE. Additional information is available through the NCBE's website at www.ncbex.org.

APPLICATION TO TAKE THE JULY 2013 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION

The application, instructions, deadlines and other information to take the July 2013 California Bar Examination are available through the State Bar's website at <http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov>. The timely filing deadline for unsuccessful applicants from the February 2013 California Bar Examination to take the July 2013 administration of the examination is June 4, 2013. Applications may be filed after that date, but a late fee is required. The final filing deadline for the July 2013 examination is June 17, 2013.